

## Lavender Creighton's Lovers

By OLIVIA B. STROHM

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### CHAPTER XXIII.—Continued.

Rapidly thought through through suspense in his brain, even as his feet pressed with eager steps the brush and branches of the riverbank. Owtoga had given no hint of his direction—was it up or down the stream? Down, he would have had to row against the current, and past the village, with more show of detention. Nevertheless, Winslow thought it more likely that he had taken that course. Westward, was over the Indian's watch-cries, and against the wave, Owtoga's giant strength would have less chance of being overtaken. The possibility of observation was small; it had been a Sabbath day, and the heat of noon, when all would avoid the river.

All this Owtoga had doubtless considered, thought Winslow, as he tramped the water's edge up and down, peering into every clump and shade. His steps had led him well to the east, when, suddenly, half-way between the water and a ferny coppice, he spied something small and dark lying on the sand. Mechanically he went to examine it, and his heart beat like a forge as he recognized the black bag—the silk trifle she had worn at church the previous day. He stood still for a moment, overcome by the feelings of relief and tenderness roused in him by this inanimate thing—this bit of silk that had dangled from her waist.

He raised it from the damp, sandy bed as though it were sacred, fondling it with reverent care. Then, with the touch of it, rushed over him, too, a sense of its practical value! Here was proof of her presence on this spot; then Owtoga had brought her here—he was on the right track at last!

Folding the bag, he was about to stow it in his pocket, when from it dropped a yellow envelope; he stooped to regain it—it was his own. In her possession; this note, which causing his presence in the forest on that fatal night, had caused all the tangle of distrust and suffering and apprehension—all the wretched coil. The sight of the yellow paper filled him with disgust, and to find the reminder of that night in something of hers—to see it in this dainty pocket which should hold only delicate, clean and beautiful things—he shivered, hurt in all his finer feelings.

Replacing the letter, he put the bag in his knapsack, with a little sigh, then, as if throwing aside sentiment for practical things, he looked carefully about. She had been here—of that there was proof; but Owtoga had mentioned two boats—where could the other be?

His gaze fell upon a something which looked like two ends of boards joined together in a way that proved man's handiwork. The boat! He made a dash into the coppice, and from it pulled a light canoe. For one moment he stood surveying it, in thankful, silent ecstasy; then he pushed it from shore and was out on the broad breast of the Missouri.

For an idle moment the boat swung with the current; the man at the oars let it drift—up or down? While he hesitated, the sun rose from a grove of trees beyond the bend of the river. It pointed long fingers of light straight up the stream, and notes dancing in its rays, beckoned him to follow.

"An omen!" he exclaimed, in sudden burst of boyish enthusiasm, and straight against the current he headed the boat.

"Westward we go," he said, playfully, giving rein to the new buoyancy. "Follow at your leisure," and he waved his hand to the sun, which now burnt a huge copper globe on the horizon.

It was yet early day when he rowed past the village—drowsy still with the sloth of the previous Sabbath. The few who were stirring, took no care to blink through the fog at the solitary figure in the boat toiling up stream.

And hard work it was! Even the Indian's strength had felt the strain, and to this man, weakened by illness, whose powers of endurance were rather of nerve than brawn, it was effort indeed. Yet, buoyed by the hope that had sprung in his heart at sight of the gracious souvenir of her presence, he toiled on, scanning each change in the outline of shore, anxious for the first sight of swamp and grove of tamaracks. He felt almost sure it would be on the northern bank; Owtoga had given no hint to cross the river. Besides, many of the Osage tribe were scattered to the north, and it was likely he would choose the hunting grounds of his own people.

An hour or two at noon, he put ashore at the foot of a poplar-crowned bluff, then on—until, with the fiercest blaze of the afternoon sun scorching his tired back, the grove of tamaracks came in sight. Its dense, swampy shade lured him with promises of delicious coolness—here, too, was another link in the chain which was leading him to her. At the thought his flagging strength revived; his aching arms felt new vigor, and with a dozen stout little poles, which he landed at a little point where one withered tamarack stood apart, the dead brown needles at its crest a crown of thorns uplifted to the sky.

On the edge of the forest stood a scrub-oak tree, one branch of which had been bent over and rooted again, giving a curious hump-backed effect. Winslow noted this with a start of pleasure. "Another landmark! It is well I have before witnessed Owtoga's forest-craft," he thought.

Hiding the boat, he rested in the shade, but only for a little space. For, with the end of his search so near, he could not dally, though the grass was soft and yielding—the turf as a feather-cushion; the sky a marvelous turquoise canopy, pierced with a thousand emerald spires.

Rising, he studied carefully every spot to discover further signs of the presence of those he sought. "Ah!

and he laughed aloud, triumphantly. On the ground he spied scraps of corn-bread and an empty bottle. Winslow sniffed at the latter, and made a wry face. "Poor little girl," he said, smiling, with a pitying shake of the head. The little crust he picked up and slipped into his pocket, glancing shamefacedly at a squirrel, which, perched on a near-by limb, seemed to note the action with a teasing tilt of its head and a mocking chatter.

Unlike Owtoga's direct course through the swampy undergrowth, Winslow's unfamiliar feet led him by a circuitous path to the base of a hill on the opposite side from which the Indian and Lavender had emerged the night before.

Here he paused, and taking the diagram from his pocket, studied it again. "The swamp of tamarack lies here, and just beyond is the hut of the old man of the woods." Just beyond? Where? Beyond this hill? He glanced wearily at the slope; it was beautiful with its carpet of flowers and festoons of ivy looped from tree and shrub. It was inviting—but it was steep; he was tired—"just beyond" was vague, tantalizing.

Obedient to the impulse of fatigue, he sat down to rest against the trunk of a sycamore whose roots coiled about him like protecting arms. Not far away lay the stretch of swampy undergrowth; a few paces to his right loomed the hill like a mound made with giant hands—steep, sharp, without purpose in the landscape.

He was pondering whether to ascend or skirt its base, when his attention was held by the figure of a man coming slowly down. His step was firm and light as an Indian brave's, though from under the cap of skins flowed hair whiter than the aspen's silver linings.

Lavender was showing Owtoga the use of the griddle. "See, you rub the corn along this rough side, and it comes out meal on the other; it is really magic, Owtoga."

She laughed, and the low music was as sweet to hear as she was fair to see. With arms bare to the elbow, she held a crock between her knees, into which the meal slowly sifted. Now and then she raised a face bright and flushed with exercise, to meet the calm eyes of Owtoga fixed upon her in placid content.

For a moment the newcomers watched them thus, then Boone whispered: "I should have prepared you for the presence of a female, but in the care of this man here, I forgot. I shall go on, and let her know there is a guest with me."

Winslow stayed back in shadow, while Boone went forward. He saw the girl smile and wave a welcome with the corn-cob she held. Then the old pioneer whispered a word to Owtoga, and with long, crouching strides, the latter cleared the vacant space to where his master stood supporting the wounded brave.

"Go to her," was all he said, and slowly Winslow obeyed; he needed time to collect himself and be calm and strong after the first joy of seeing her—alive and well.

Meantime, Boone had told Lavender, in terse words: "I met a youth in the woods, and brought him home with me. You will not object to a stranger in our camp-fire?"

A strong intuition seized her; the youth who was to share their camp-fire—who was he? Her heart gave the answer. All day, from her awakening at early dawn—from the first faint peep of light over the sun-embowered wood, she had watched the sun's march across the sky, wondering at what point of his pilgrimage he would shine upon the man who was to seek and bring her home.

So when, at last, Winslow came, she felt no surprise—she had known he would come. The devotion of Gonsaga—the apparent neglect of this other—were alike forgotten. "I am so glad you have come," she cried, and went to meet him with both hands outstretched. Taking them in his: "I came as soon as I could," he said, and for a few moments they stood silent, hands clasped, their eyes meeting.

"Heyday, heyday!" exclaimed their host, "am I the victim of a conspiracy? This is what comes of an old fool's meddling!" But there was a twinkle in his eye, and the frown was a fallacy. White Lavender went capingly up to him, and stroked his arm in a gentle caress. Winslow said: "Call it an old fool's meddling. If you like, Col. Boone, to me you are an agent of Providence. As you see, sir, I have the honor to be acquainted with this young lady, and am come in search of her. A crude hint left by Owtoga brought me here; you guided me the rest of the way; my story is told—it is I who have all to learn."

"Women are better talkers than men—green old men," Boone retorted, with mock gruffness. "I refer you to the young woman herself. I'll just step down to the spring and dress these rabbits for supper. Folks can't live on talk—nor love, either."

With this parting shot, delivered over his shoulder between nods and knowing winks, the old man slipped into the thicket.

After a moment's silence, made awkward by the pioneer's significant words and manner, Lavender said: "Did you see mother?" In she—her eager eyes supplied the question.

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woods." But he would waste no time in vain hope and idle speculation. Aloud he said: "This Indian is something of a nuisance, but—"

He paused, and the other finished the phrase: "But he is wounded, helpless; we can't leave him to die."

To the Indian Boone said: "Come," and slowly they climbed the hill. Winslow and his new-found friend, with the red man staggering between.

Little was said, for the journey was toilsome and slow, over briars and roots, under a sun yet hot, though low in the west.

At the brow of the hill they paused and looked down. "The shed is there, but you cannot see it," Boone said, and to the shade of a tree he pointed.

The Indian retorted: "But it has been seen. The white man is no match for his red brother—the old man's hut has been seen."

This was said with such telling emphasis that the listeners were filled with a vague apprehension. From this man, alone, and unarmed, they had nothing to fear, but might there not be others?

Each, however, forbore to question, and the Indian relapsed into sullen silence.

They descended the opposite side of the hill, and still no sign of dwelling when at last the little place came in sight through a break in the thick grove hiding it about.

And then Winslow's heart stood still with a tumult of feeling.

There, at the entrance of the cabin, stood Lavender and the Indian guide together—interested, friendly.

It was all so, then, even as the old pioneer had said: "The white maid will be safe with Owtoga."

CHAPTER XXIV.

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## Missouri Legislature

### HOUSE.

All trust companies and financial institutions, exclusive of building and loan associations and national banks, are to be placed under the supervision of State Bank Commissioner if a bill introduced by Representative Humphrey, of Platte County, in the House Thursday morning, passes.

The measure requires that the banks be taken from the supervision of the Secretary of State and placed in the hands of a Bank Commissioner, who is to be an appointee of the Governor at a salary of \$5,000 a year. He and his deputy must have had at least three years' experience in the banking business.

Representative Humphrey stated that the bill was drawn up at the request of the Missouri Bankers' Association. There will be eight examiners who will visit every bank and trust company in the State once a year.

Another provision requires that three of the directors of each bank shall make a personal inspection of the condition of the account at least twice a year and forward the report to the Bank Commissioner, the same to be regarded as a strictly confidential communication.

Representative Austin Biggs, of St. Louis, offered an amendment to the election laws to increase the salaries of the judges and clerks of election for the City of St. Louis from \$4 to \$5 a day, and to allow them \$2.50 a day for every day they are called upon to visit the Election Commissioner's office.

Speaker Atkinson, of the House of Representatives, on Wednesday announced the standing committees of that branch of the general assembly. Not a chairmanship was given to the St. Louis members, but it was at their own request.

Every candidate for speaker of the House of Representatives gets a chairmanship of some committee, and the other democratic members of the House are taken care of by appointments on important committees.

Representative Simmons, who was the most formidable opponent to Speaker Atkinson in the race for the honor of presiding over the House at this session, is named at the head of the committee on ways and means.

Wallace Crossley, of Johnson county, heads the committee on education and public schools; Representative Houston, of Cass county, will preside over the committee on private corporations, and Representative H. F. Stapel, of Atchison county, heads the committee on the Jameson exposition.

Speaker Atkinson, in making his selections, stated that he hoped they would prove satisfactory to all of the members, as he had made his selections without fear, favor or affection.

No republican is placed at the head of any committee, but they are given representation in each.

There was a big slump in the number of bills introduced Wednesday, only twenty-eight proposed measures being sent in by the members. Some covered propositions already incorporated in other bills, while the majority were local in nature.

The second reading of bills was carried out Wednesday for the first time this session, and the first thirty which were returned from the printer were read and referred to the respective committees.

SENATE.

Senator Dorris, of Oregon, introduced a bill in the Senate Thursday making it unlawful for any business corporation, either in its own name or the name of any person, to own, hold, control or vote the stock of any other corporation.

The bill provides that if a majority of the stockholders shall permit the shares of stock owned by another corporation in the corporation of which they are stockholders to be voted, or if majority shall permit its business and affairs to be controlled by another corporation, then the Attorney General may bring proceedings to forfeit its charter.

Another section provides that any person who knowingly attempts to vote or votes any shares of stock which are directly owned, held or controlled by another business corporation, with intent or effect of securing to the corporation owning, holding or controlling such shares the management, control or direction of the business of the other corporation, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and punished by fine of not exceeding \$1,000 or imprisonment in jail not exceeding one year.

It is not very often that Senator Bradley, of St. Francis, makes a record as a humorist in the Senate. Usually, he is so busy with bills affecting the mining interests, reminding the railroads of their sins and providing

LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

Representative Dale of Andrew county has heard so many persons talk of the barrel of apples his predecessor, the late Representative Moser, sent to the general assembly, that he has confided to Railroad Clerk Reed of the state auditor's department, his intention to do likewise.

Representatives Barker of Macon and Traubner of Carroll and Senator Hudson of Livingston were all born in Carroll county, where all of them resided until after they had reached their majority.

Representatives of the various labor organizations of the state, who have been delegated to watch legislation at the state capital during this session, a permanent organization to be known as the Missouri joint labor legislative committee. This organization will maintain permanent headquarters at Jefferson City, and in addition to supporting labor measures will keep a close watch on all legislation that may affect the working classes in particular or the people as a whole.

heavier penalties for merchants who sell whiskey under the guise of "wet groceries," that he has little time to pose as a humorist.

He found time Thursday, however, and improved it by introducing a resolution, reciting that the Senate is about to pass into the hands of lobbyists who are stalking about the legislative halls seeking to corrupt members of the General Assembly, and concluding with, "Resolved, That the President of the Senate appoint six staff sergeants-at-arms to seize each member of the Senate at the hour of adjournment, and place him by the heels and shake him until all the corruption funds in his possession have been scattered over the floor."

State Treasurer Gmelch is going to stand on his record of two years ago and refuse to cash warrants for members and employees of the Legislature until after the appropriation bills have passed and been approved by the Governor.

He is clearly within the law in so doing, but all of his predecessors honored requests from the Legislature and cashed these warrants, and then held them against the appropriations, thus saving an endless amount of annoyance, to say nothing of the small losses everyone must have sustained in having his warrants shaved.

Arrangements have been made with the Mercantile Trust Company of St. Louis, under which it will cash these warrants, in Jefferson City the 2d and 16th of each month, at the nominal cost of one-half of 1 per cent.

Senator Farris presented a bill in the Senate Thursday to regulate the sale of proprietary medicines. It is similar to a measure that has been in the Legislature before and which is now being urged by petitions from various parts of the State, indicating an organized effort to secure its enactment.

It requires all patent medicines to bear upon the label of each bottle the percentage of morphine and other narcotics or spirituous liquors that each bottle or package contains.

The bill recommended by the Federation of Labor to abolish the contract system of working convicts in the Penitentiary was introduced in the Senate Thursday by Senator Bradley, who stated that he intended to bring it before the Senate before adjournment.

There will no doubt be a warm contest over this measure, as the labor organizations all over the State are urging its enactment. They have their opposition to the contract system on the ground that the product of convict labor comes in competition with outside labor.

Senator McAllister introduced a bill in the Senate amending the law relating to the qualifications of Probate Judges, so as to compel the latter to be a man learned in law. In other words, the bill requires a Probate Judge to be a lawyer.

Senator Gilmore, of Kansas City, wants to put an end to illatory proceedings in civil suits. He introduced a bill in the Senate providing a fine of \$10 for every motion in a civil action which is of a dilatory character and made solely for the purpose of delay. He also proposes to change the methods of reversals in civil actions on appeals.

The standing committees announced in the Senate Wednesday morning by President Pro Tem. McDavid are regarded as about the best that body has had in many years. Seemingly, everybody is satisfied.

As the democratic leader in the senate, he was empowered by the democratic caucus to arrange these committees, a privilege that would have been accorded the lieutenant governor had he been a democrat.

Senator Fields, of Linn, heads the judiciary committee, regarded as the most important of all. Associated with him are the strongest men in the senate. This committee will have charge of trust legislation, as well as many other important matters.

Senator Ely, of Dunklin, is chairman of the criminal jurisprudence committee, which is composed of strong men. This committee will have charge of the criminal laws and also draft legislation.

The St. Louis members fared well in the make-up of the committee. Senator Kinney, who is the only democratic senator from St. Louis with legislative experience, is chairman of one committee and a member of five other important committees. He is chairman of the committee on penitentiary and a member of the ways and means, election, insurance, labor and engraving bills committees.

Senator Methudy, of St. Louis, introduced a bill in the senate Wednesday under which, should it become a law, there will no longer be any such thing as the legal recognition of common law marriages.

Senator McAllister introduced a bill in the senate Wednesday extending the parole law so as to permit all persons with a previous good character, who are convicted of their first crime, to be paroled by the trial judge, pending their good behavior. Under the present law, the parole system only extends to persons under 25 years of age who are convicted for the first time.

Senator Dorris introduced a bill which he said was not an administration measure, but was along the line of the series of anti-trust bills, and sought to attain an end in the same direction. It provides that it shall be unlawful for any business corporation to own, hold, control or vote the stock of another corporation.

Official Reporter Daniels is a school teacher. From his desk in the house he can see three of his former pupils occupying seats as members of the legislature. These are Representatives Oliver of Pemiscot, Settle of Wayne and Sweaze of Reynolds.

The judiciary committee of the house held a meeting and determined to report favorably the bill introduced by Representative Cross relating to the survival of an action for damages after the death of the plaintiff. The same measure was passed two years ago, but did not receive the governor's approval. It will be recommended for passage by the judiciary committee as soon as that committee submits a report. Under the provisions of the bill a cause of action instituted during the life time of the plaintiff may be prosecuted by the heirs.



## LIVE STOCK

### EXAMINING A HORSE.

How One May Judge of the Animal's Soundness.

These are the instructions of a noted horseman published by the Prairie Farmer.

The first thing for a prospective purchaser to do in examining a horse for soundness is to walk up in front of him and see that he has a bright, cheerful eye. Then step around at once side and look through the eyes to see if any defect is noticeable from that point of view. Sometimes there is a cataract or scar upon the ball or pupil that is visible only from the side. The cataract, in its earlier stages, will appear like a small white spot on the pupil in its earlier stage.

Next look in the mouth to determine age; also to see that the teeth shut together evenly. Avoid an animal that is either under-shot or over-shot, as horsemen express it. The latter frequently being called a parrot mouth.

While in front of the horse look straight down at his front legs to see if there are any bunches, knee-caps or splints.

A splint is located anywhere between the knee and the ankle, and is found only on the front legs. It takes the form of a bony substance on the inside of the leg. It seldom causes lameness unless near a joint, but it is liable to give trouble and is to be avoided in making a purchase.

Look over the body of the horse to see that there are no ruptures, then examine for soundness of wind. It is not always possible to avoid mistakes in this direction. Watch the flank for unnatural or jerking action. Sometimes a horse with heaves shows it only in the nostrils when not exercising. The breathing should be regular, anything of a labored character is suspicious.

Next take a position directly opposite the hind quarters and look for curb, ringbone and thoroughpin. A curb is known by an enlargement of the back part of the hock joint. A ringbone is a bony enlargement just about the hoof and may appear upon either front or hind legs.

A spavin comes on the inside of the leg, below the hock joint, a hard bony substance more or less perceptible. A thoroughpin is located directly in the hock joint